

2011 Alaska Interagency Protocols for Fire Behavior Requests in WFDSS (DRAFT ver. 2)

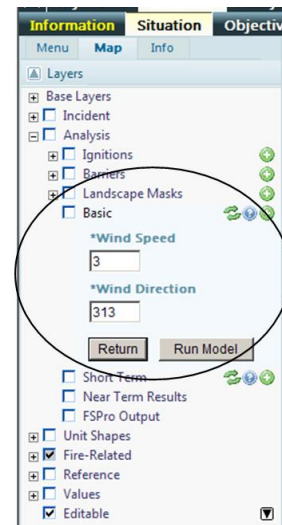
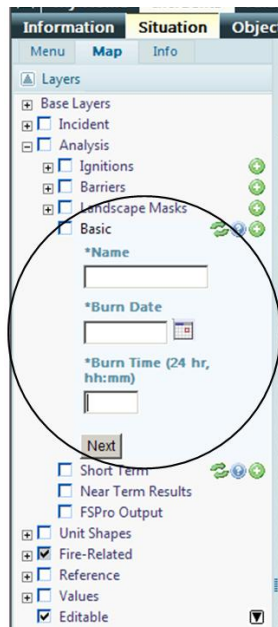
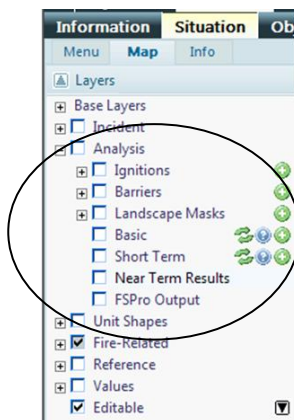
These protocols were developed in order to have a statewide standard for requesting fire behavior analyses on wildland fires in Alaska and a process for prioritization of the requests. It is not intended to give direction on how to develop inputs or to run the models. Qualifications for the Fire Behavior Specialist Role are agency specific. Expect to see national guidelines for Fire Behavior Specialist Role in 2012.

Fire Behavior Models and WFDSS Roles:

Basic Fire Behavior (BTB) and **Short -Term Fire Behavior** (STFB) are basic automated models that can be run by Dispatchers, the Incident Author, Owner or anyone granted incident privileges. **Basic Fire Behavior** is a simple way to get a “snapshot in time” of potential fire behavior, such as flame lengths and rates of spread.

Short -Term Fire Behavior is a quick way to get an idea of potential fire spread over the next 1 to 3 days. When an Author, Owner or Dispatcher initiates a **Basic or Short Term** run – the inputs fields are limited making it relatively simple to get an output. No fire behavior modeling skills are needed. Initiation of Basic or Short Term fire behavior is found in the Situation tab, under the analysis layer. Select the green plus next to the Basic or Short Term.

Basic Fire Behavior input screens:



Short Term Fire Behavior Inputs screens:

The left screenshot shows the 'Information' tab with a 'Layers' menu on the left. The 'Short Term' checkbox is checked. The right screenshot shows the 'Situation' tab with input fields for 'Wind Speed' (3) and 'Wind Direction' (120), and buttons for 'Return' and 'Run Model'.

An analyst-assisted **Short Term** run may also be requested. More input options are given to the analyst to allow for a more refined output. The fire behavior request is located in the light blue menu bar.

The screenshot shows the 'Fire Behavior Request' screen. The 'Fire Behavior Request' menu item is highlighted in the left sidebar. The main form has tabs for 'Objectives', 'Course of Action', 'Validation', 'Decisions', 'Periodic Assessment', and 'Request'. The 'Objectives' tab is active, showing 'Desired Date' (03/16/2011), 'Desired Time', and 'Fire Behavior Needs' (Long Term Behavior, Short Term Behavior, Near Term Behavior). There is a 'Rationale for Request' text area and a 'Contact Information' form with fields for Position, Name, Phone Number, and E-mail Address.

Near Term Fire Behavior (NTFB) is best used for 4 to 6 day fire behavior modeling. It is based on FARSITE and displays modeled fire growth over the specified time period. A qualified Fire Behavior Specialist is needed to complete this run. Incident Author, Owner or anyone granted incident privileges can make this request. Request screen locations are in the light blue menu bar under Fire Behavior Request.

Long Term Fire Behavior (also known as FSRPO) is best used for greater than 6 day fire behavior probability modeling. Only the owner(s) of the document can request a Long Term fire behavior run and only a qualified Fire Behavior Specialist can run the model. Be sure to include a rationale for the request.

Information	Situation	Objectives	Course of Action	Validation	Decisions	Periodic Assessment	Re
Incident List							
• Fire Behavior Request		Fire Behavior Request for '123 Sample'					
RAVAR Request		Desired Date: 03/16/2011 Desired Time: []					
Stratified Cost Index		Fire Behavior Needs					
Relative Risk		<input type="checkbox"/> Long Term Behavior (> 6 days) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Short Term Behavior (1-3 days) <input type="checkbox"/> Near Term Behavior (1-6 days)					
FMU List		*Rationale for Request					
Mgmt Action Points		<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px;"></div>					
Shape Upload		Please include any special areas of concern in your rationale for this request					
Image Upload		<div> <div> <div>Position</div> <div>Name</div> </div> <div> <div>Phone Number</div> <div>E-mail Address</div> </div> <div>Add Contact to List</div> </div>					
Download Perimeters		<div> <div>Position</div> <div>Name</div> <div>Phone Number</div> <div>E-mail Address</div> </div> <div> <div>Edit</div> <div>Delete...</div> </div>					

Requesting a Fire Behavior Specialist

A local Fire Behavior Specialist may be requested from within the requestor's agency. This may be done through email and/or telephone. This agency Fire Behavior Specialist will notify the State Strategic Planner that they will be filling the request. At times there may be higher priority fires and this Fire Behavior Specialist may be asked to support other fires which delays this request. If an agency Fire Behavior Specialist is not available, place the analysis request directly with the State Strategic Planner through email and/or telephone.

The State Strategic Planner will be the focal point in Alaska to assist agencies in finding a Fire Behavior Specialist for analysis requests and to provide statewide prioritization of requests. An in-state analyst will be contacted first followed by support from the National Decision Support Center in Boise.

Prioritization of Requests

The State Strategic Planner will coordinate requests with the Jurisdictional Agencies and the three Operation Chiefs from the Protecting Agencies. Approval of the prioritized list will be done by the AICC Center Manager. When the MAC Group is activated, they will approve the prioritized list. The prioritization may include but not be limited to the following considerations:

- Emergent fires
- Fires in proximity to identified values
- Fires without obvious natural barriers
- Fires with long-term potential
- Politically or publically sensitive fires
- Fires with potential for high costs